

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Presently Amended) A method for customizing a computer system, comprising the steps of:

receiving a customer order, wherein the customer order specifies customization information for a computer system;

programming customization parameters into a configuration mechanism, wherein the configuration parameters corresponding to the customization information;

sending the configuration mechanism to a customer; and

sending a computer system to the customer, the computer system being adapted to receive the configuration mechanism and to customize the computer system according to the configuration parameters stored in the configuration mechanism;

installing the configuration mechanism into the computer system; and

the configuration mechanism allowing a system administrator to manage the computer system remotely independent of an on or off status of the computer system.

2. (Original) The method of customizing a computer system of claim 1, further comprising the step of: providing instructions to the customer to install the configuration mechanism in the computer system.

3. (Original) The method of customizing a computer system of claim 2, further comprising the step of: providing instructions to the customer to initiate a boot process; wherein, in response to the initiation of a boot process, the computer system customizes an operating system according to the configuration parameters stored in the configuration mechanism.

4. (Presently Amended) A method for customizing a computer system, comprising the steps of:
receiving a customer order, wherein the customer order specifies customization information for a computer system;
programming customization parameters into a configuration mechanism, wherein the configuration parameters correspond to the customization information;
sending the configuration mechanism to a customer;
sending a computer system to the customer, the computer system being adapted to receive the configuration mechanism and to customize the computer system according to the configuration parameters stored in the configuration mechanism;~~The method of customizing a computer system of claim 2, further comprising the step of:~~
providing instructions to the customer to install the configuration mechanism in the computer system; and

_____providing instructions to the customer to initiate a boot process; wherein, the computer system includes a data storage device having a first partition including a first operating system, and a second partition including a second operating system and, in response to the initiation of the boot process, the computer system first boots to the second partition to execute the second operating system which causes the first operating system in the first partition to be customized according to the configuration parameters stored in the configuration mechanism and, upon completion of the customization of the first operating system, the computer system boots to the first partition and executes the first operating system.

5. (Original) The method of customizing a computer system of claim 2, wherein the configuration mechanism is included in an adapter pluggable into the computer system, the adapter including a communications port, further comprising the steps of:

storing the customization information, as specified in the order, in a memory;

converting the customization information stored in the memory to customization parameters;

loading the customization parameters from the memory to the configuration mechanism via the communications port of the adapter.

6. (Presently Amended) A method for customizing a computer system comprising:

~~(a)~~storing customization information for the computer system in a configuration mechanism;

(b)-coupling the configuration mechanism to the computer system;

the configuration mechanism allowing a system administrator to manage the computer system remotely independent of an on or off status of the computer system and

(e)-retrieving the customization information in the configuration mechanism by the computer system to customize the computer system.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the configuration mechanism is a PCI adapter.

8. (Presently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the coupling the configuration mechanism step (b)-includes plugging the configuration mechanism into the computer system such that the computer system accesses the configuration mechanism.

9. (Presently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the storing customization information step (a)-includes programming the configuration mechanism with the customization information manually at a distribution site.

10. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the configuration mechanism includes at least one communication port.

11. (Presently Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the storing customization information step (a) further includes the step of downloading the customization information from a server to the configuration mechanism via the at least one communication port.

12. (Presently Amended) The method of claim 6, further including: ~~(d) the step of shipping the computer system and the configuration mechanism separately but in the a same shipment to a customer site prior to the coupling~~ the configuration mechanism step (b).

13. (Presently Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein the retrieving the customization information step (e) further includes the steps of:

~~(e1)~~ performing a first system boot; and

~~(e2)~~ querying the configuration mechanism for the customization information.

14. (Presently Amended) ~~A method for~~ The method of claim 12 further comprising the step of deploying a the customized computer system to a customer site comprising:

~~(a) storing customization information for the computer system in a configuration module, wherein the configuration module is an adapter card; and~~

~~(b) shipping the computer system and the configuration module separately but in the same shipment to the customer site, wherein after the configuration module is coupled to the computer system wherein the configuration mechanism coupling step is performed at the customer site, the configuration information is retrieved by the computer system and wherein the retrieving the customization information step is performed during a first system boot.~~

15-17 (Canceled.)

18. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of the configuration mechanism continuously monitoring computer system components for potential problems.

19. (New) The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of the configuration mechanism alerting the system administrator of events that can impact computer system operation.

20. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
providing the computer system with a preconfigured operating system; and
customizing the preconfigured operating system according to the configuration parameters.

21. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein the configuration parameters comprise at least one of a group comprising a computer name, a host name, a host IP address, a host gateway and a host subnet.

22. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein the customized preconfigured operating system has a size of from about 10 gigabytes to about 15 gigabytes.